

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OPERATION POKER

REF: (A) STATE 86931, (B) KARACHI 1675

1. REFTEL (A) INDICATED THAT U.S. CUSTOMS WOULD PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ON COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM AND IN UTILIZING DETECTOR DOGS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED FOR MISSION REVIEW AS BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY AGENCY OR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM. ALSO, IN REFERENCE TO SENDING PAKISTANI HANDLERS TO TRAINING IN U.S., AS OUTLINED REFTEL (B), A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THESE HANDLERS ON THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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RETURN TO PAKISTAN WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY VITAL.

2. MINIMUM BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM INCLUDE: A) AGENCY MUST EARMARK FUNDS AND ASSURE MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH THE DOG PROGRAM HAS PROVEN TO BE COST EFFECTIVE

FOR U.S. CUSTOMS, IT IS EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF TIME INVOLVED, PERSONNEL REQUIRED, TRAINING PROVIDED, AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT NECESSARY. B) A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG

PROGRAM OVERSEAS HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS WHERE IT CAN BE BUILT ON THE BASE OF AN ALREADY EXISTING DOG PROGRAM, SUCH AS PATROL OR SENTRY DOGS. IN ANY CASE, THE AGENCY MUST PROVIDE FUNDS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR MODERN, SECURE KENNEL FACILITIES AT EACH STATION WHERE DOGS WILL BE USED, AND FUNDS FOR PROCUREMENT, VETERINARY SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. C) THE AGENCY MUST IDENTIFY BOTH ADMINISTRATORS AND DOG HANDLERS WHO ARE TOTALLY DEDICATED TO THE DOG PROGRAM; THAT IS ADMINISTRATORS AND HANDLERS WHO ARE NOT REASSIGNED FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME TO OTHER DUTIES. A DOG AND A HANDLER MUST BE TRAINED TOGETHER AND ALLOWED TO WORK TOGETHER. D) THERE SHOULD BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE WITH THE NECESSARY SUPERVISORY AND TRAINING PERSONNEL TO ENSURE THAT DOGS AND HANDLERS ARE PROPERLY TRAINED, DOG/HANDLER TEAMS PROPERLY DEPLOYED, AND RETRAINING IS EFFECTIVE. IN THIS REGARD, AGENCY MUST BE PREPARED TO HIRE OR DEVELOP A PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER, AS THE PROGRAM CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT ONE. E) TRANSPORTATION, VETERINARY SERVICES, AND OTHER BASIC SUPPORT CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE PROVIDED. A SUPPLY OF NARCOTICS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO USE IN THE CONSTANT RETRAINING REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE PROFICIENCY

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OF DOG/HANDLER TEAMS.

3. U.S. CUSTOMS TRAINS DOG PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS AND/OR SUPERVISORS IN A 3-WEEK COURSE AT FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA. THE COURSE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATORS OF POTENTIAL DOG PROGRAMS WITH DETAILS OF THE STAFFING, PROCUREMENT, TRAINING, AND DEPLOYMENT PROCESS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM. THIS 3-WEEK COURSE WILL NOT TRAIN A PARTICIPANT IN HOW TO BE A TRAINER BUT WILL TRAIN EXPERIENCED DOG TRAINERS OR ADMINISTRATORS IN THE BASICS OF ESTABLISHING A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM.

4. IN ORDER TO TRAIN DOG/HANDLER TEAMS, U.S. CUSTOMS HAS DEVELOPED A 14-WEEK PROGRAM THAT TRAINS BOTH DOG AND HANDLER AS A TEAM. THE TEAM IS TRAINED IN VARIOUS EXERCISES INVOLVING CONCEALMENT OF NARCOTICS IN AUTOMOBILES, FREIGHT, BAGGAGE, AND AIRCRAFT. AT THE COMPLETION OF TRAINING THE DOG IS DONATED TO THE HANDLER'S AGENCY FOR THEIR USE IN DRUG DETECTION. ONLY EIGHT HANDLER'S ARE TRAINED EACH YEAR IN THIS PROGRAM.

5. REQUEST FOR MISSION STATEMENTS ON CUSTOMS PATROL AND
ON MARINE, LAND, AND AIR BRANCHES WILL BE SENT IN SEPARATE
CABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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